IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 15, 32, 37, 41-42, and 60-62, as shown below.

1. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

at least one access network configured to provide a wireless interface between a mobile device and the at least one access network for communication of packet data;

a core network comprising at least one core network node configured to support communication of packet data on the wireless interface and configured to release a data communication link associated with the mobile device in the absence of a response to one or more messages directed to the mobile device; and

a controller provided in association with the at least one access network and configured to monitor at least one condition associated with the wireless interface, and, when the monitoring indicates that the at least one condition is met, to generate and send to the core network node one or more messages in response to one or more of said one or more messages from the core network node.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to monitor a condition associated with signal strength on the wireless interface.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to monitor the condition, wherein the condition is associated with the signal strength, and wherein the signal strength comprises the signal strength of uplink link layer frames.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to monitor a condition that comprises expiration of a timer.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the controller is configured to monitor the condition that comprises the expiration of the timer and wherein the timer is configured to expire before the expiration of the message.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to monitor a condition associated with paging of the mobile device.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to monitor re-registration messages from the mobile device.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to monitor pilot signals from the mobile device.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the core network node comprises an access gateway.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the access gateway comprises a packet data support node.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is provided in a base station controller.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is provided in a packet control function associated with the access network.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to respond to messages that are sent to the mobile device on behalf of the mobile device.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to send a notification regarding the status of the wireless interface in response to a message from the core network node.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing, by a core network node, a data communication link via an access network of a data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;

sending one or more messages from thea core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core network is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages;

detecting at a controller provided in association with the access network that at least one trigger condition associated with the wireless interface is met; and

subsequent to said detectingsuch detection, generating at the controller and sending to the core network node one or more messages in response to said one or more messages from the core network node.

16-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing a data communication link via an access network of a data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;

sending one or more messages from a core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core

~~network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages;~~

detecting at a controller provided in association with an~~the~~ access network of a data communication system that a~~the~~ mobile device is out of reach, wherein a data communication link is established via the access network to the mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device, wherein a core network node of the data communication system is configured to send one or more messages to the mobile device via the access network, and wherein the core network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages; and

notifying, by the controller, said core network node that the mobile device is out of reach,~~; and~~ wherein in response to receiving the notification, the core network node is configured to retain~~retaining~~ said data communication link, to pause~~but pausing~~ from sending further data packets from the core network node to the mobile device, and to process~~processing~~ the data packets in accordance with a predefined policy.

33-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

establishing means for establishing a data communication link via an access network of the data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;

first sending means for sending one or more messages from a core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a reply to said one or more messages;

detection means for detection at a controller provided in association with the access network that at least one trigger condition associated with the wireless interface is met; and

second sending means for sending a further message from the controller to the core network node subsequent to such detection, wherein the core network node postpones the release of said data communication~~release~~ link in response to said~~such a~~ further message.

38-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an establishing unit configured to establish a data communication link via an access network of the data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;

a first sending unit configured to send one or messages from a core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a reply to said one or more messages;

a detector configured to detect at a controller provided in association with the access network that at least one trigger condition associated with the wireless interface is met; and

a second sending unit configured to send a further message from the controller to the core network node subsequent to such detection, wherein the core network node postpones the release of said release link in response to such a further message.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to monitor at least one condition associated with a~~the~~ wireless interface, wherein the apparatus is associated with at least one access network via which a data communication link is established between a~~the~~ mobile device and a core network node configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to one or more messages directed to the mobile device; and

a transmitter configured to, in response to an indication that the at least one condition is not met, generate on behalf of the mobile device and transmit to the core network node one or more messages in response to said one or more messages from the core network node, or configured to, in response to an indication that the at least one

condition is not met, generate and transmit to the core network node a message, in response to which the core network node postpones release of said data communication link.

42. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

monitoring, by a controller, at least one condition associated with a wireless interface constituting part of a data communication link between a mobile device and a core network node configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to one or more messages directed to the mobile device~~, said at least one condition comprising a condition~~; and

in response to an indication that the at least one condition is met, either generating, by the controller, on behalf of the mobile device and sending to the core network node one or more messages in response to said one or more messages from the core network node, or otherwise

sending, by the controller, a message to the core network node in response to which the core network node postpones release of said data communication link.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to monitor a condition associated with signal strength on the wireless interface.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the signal strength comprises the signal strength of uplink link layer frames.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to monitor a condition that comprises expiration of a timer.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the timer is configured to expire before the expiration of the message.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to monitor a condition associated with paging of the mobile device.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to monitor re-registration messages from the mobile device.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to monitor pilot signals from the mobile device.

50. (Previously Presented) A base station controller comprising an apparatus according to claim 41.

51. (Previously Presented) A packet control function associated with the access network comprising an apparatus according to claim 41.

52. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising a mobile device, a core network node and an apparatus according to claim 41.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, comprising monitoring a condition associated with signal strength on the wireless interface.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the signal strength comprises the signal strength of uplink link layer frames.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, comprising monitoring a condition that comprises expiration of a timer.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the timer is configured to expire before the expiration of the message.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, comprising monitoring a condition associated with paging of the mobile device.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, comprising monitoring re-registration messages from the mobile device.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, comprising monitoring pilot signals from the mobile device.

60. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to control a processor to perform:

establishing a data communication link via an access network of a data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;

sending one or more messages from a core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core network is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages;

detecting at a controller provided in association with the access network that at least one trigger condition associated with the wireless interface is met; and

subsequent to said detecting~~such detection~~, generating at the controller and sending to the core network node one or more messages in response to said one or more messages from the core network node.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to control a processor to perform:

~~establishing a data communication link via an access network of a data communication system to a mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device;~~

~~sending one or more messages from a core network node of the data communication system to the mobile device via the access network, wherein the core network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages;~~

~~detecting at a controller provided in association with the access network that the mobile device is out of reach;~~

~~notifying said core network node that the mobile device is out of reach; and~~

~~in response to receiving the notification, retaining said data communication link but pausing from sending further data packets from the core network node to the mobile device and processing the data packets in accordance with a predefined policy.~~

detecting at a controller provided in association with an access network of a data communication system that a mobile device is out of reach, wherein a data communication link is established via the access network to the mobile device on a wireless interface between the access network and the mobile device, wherein a core network node of the data communication system is configured to send one or more

messages to the mobile device via the access network, and wherein the core network node is configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to said one or more messages; and

notifying said core network node that the mobile device is out of reach, wherein in response to receiving the notification, the core network node is configured to retain said data communication link, to pause from sending further data packets from the core network node to the mobile device, and to process the data packets in accordance with a predefined policy.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program being configured to control a processor to perform:

monitoring at least one condition associated with a wireless interface constituting part of a data communication link between a mobile device and a core network node configured to release said data communication link in the absence of a response to one or more messages directed to the mobile device~~, said at least one condition comprising a condition~~; and

in response to an indication that the at least one condition is met, either generating on behalf of the mobile device and sending to the core network node one or more messages in response to said one or more messages from the core network node, or otherwise

sending a message to the core network node in response to which the core network node postpones release of said data communication link.